REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-49 are pending in the application. By this amendment, Applicants are amending claims 1-3, 5, 21-23, 34-36, 38, and 39; thus leaving claims 4, 6-20, 24-33, 37, and 40-49 unchanged. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-49 in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,571,245 ("Huang et al.") in view of United States Patent No. 6,304,900 ("Cromer et al.").

Amended independent claim 1 requires (emphasis added):

An internet based access point management system accessible by at least one internet web browser configured to communicate one or more requests comprising modifying operation of one or more computer managed openings located at one or more facilities, each facility having at least one access point, **an access point referring to a location containing a selectively controllable opening**, the internet based access point management system comprising:

at least one computer processor;

a web server operative with the at least one computer processor and being configured to receive and respond to the one or more requests communicated from the at least one web browser;

a database server operative with the at least one computer processor;

an application server operative with the at least one computer processor and being configured to communicate with the web server and the database server for processing the one or more requests, the processing of the one or more requests comprising formulating one or more system commands in response to the one or more requests; and

a communication link configured to connect the application server and the one or more computer managed openings for communication therebetween, the communication comprising the one or more system commands which modify operation of the one or more computer managed openings;

wherein at least one of the one or more computer managed openings comprises a computer being selectively interconnected with at least one electronically controlled locking device, and wherein the access point is selectively lockable using at least one of the at least one electronically controlled locking device.

Amended independent claim 21 requires (emphasis added):

An internet based access point management system, at least a part of which resides on a computer readable medium and is accessible by at least one internet web browser configured to communicate one or more requests comprising modifying an operation of one or more computer managed openings located at one or more facilities, each facility having at least one access point, **an access point referring to a location containing a selectively controllable opening**, the internet based access point management system comprising:

a web server configured to receive and respond to the one or more requests

communicated from the at least one web browser;

a database server;

an application server configured to communicate with the web server and the database server for processing the one or more requests, the processing of the one or more requests comprising formulating one or more system commands in response to the one or more requests; and

a communication link configured to connect the application server and the one or more computer managed openings for communication therebetween, the communication comprising the one or more system commands which modify operation of the one or more computer managed openings;

wherein at least one of the one or more computer managed openings comprises a computer being selectively interconnected with at least one electronically controlled locking device, and wherein the selectively controllable opening is selectively lockable using at least one of the at least one electronically controlled locking device.

Amended independent claim 34 requires (emphasis added):

An internet based access point management system accessible by at least one internet web browser communicating one or more requests for modifying operation of one or more computer managed openings located at one or more facilities, each facility having at least one access point, **an access point referring to a location containing a selectively controllable opening**, the internet based access point management system comprising:

at least one computer processor;

a web server operative with the at least one computer processor and configured to receive and respond to the one or more requests from the at least one web browser;

a database server operative with the at least one computer processor; and

an application server operative with the at least one computer processor and configured to communicate with the web server and the database server for receiving and processing commands, the processing of commands comprising formulating one or more system commands for communication to the web browser by the web server;

wherein at least one of the one or more computer managed openings comprises a computer being selectively interconnected with at least one electronically controlled locking device, and wherein the selectively controllable opening is selectively lockable using at least one of the at least one electronically controlled locking device.

Amended independent claim 36 requires (emphasis added):

An internet based access point management system at least partially residing on a computer readable medium and being accessible by at least one internet web browser communicating one or more requests for modifying operation of one or more computer managed openings located at one or more facilities, each facility having at least one access point, **an access point referring to a location containing a selectively controllable opening**, the internet based access point management system comprising:

a web server configured to receive and respond to the one or more requests from the at least one web browser;

a database server; and

an application server being configured to communicate with the web server and the database server for receiving and processing commands, the processing of commands comprising formulating system commands for communication to the web browser by the web server;

wherein at least one of the one or more computer managed openings comprises a computer being selectively interconnected with at least one electronically controlled locking device, and wherein the selectively controllable opening is selectively lockable using at least one of the at least one electronically controlled locking device.

Amended independent claim 38 requires (emphasis added):

A method of managing an access control system for a facility, the facility employing at least one computer managed opening and having at least one access point, **an access point referring to a location containing a selectively controllable opening,** said method comprising the steps of:

generating a request to modify operation of one or more computer managed openings which are stand-alone, network or modem based;

communicating the request to a remote computer managed opening server;

processing the request at the remote computer managed opening server in order to generate an acknowledgement of the request and to generate one or more system commands;

selecting the appropriate electronic format for the one or more system commands depending upon whether the one or more computer managed openings are stand-alone, network or modem based; and

communicating the one or more system commands to the appropriate computer managed opening for modifying operation thereof.

wherein at least one of the one or more computer managed openings comprises a computer being selectively interconnected with at least one electronically controlled locking device, and wherein the selectively controllable opening is selectively lockable using at least one of the at least one electronically controlled locking device.

Huang et al. and Cromer et al., either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, among other things, the claimed subject matter of amended independent claims 1, 21, 34, 36, and 38. More specifically, Huang et al. and Cromer et al. fail to teach or suggest an apparatus for and/or a method of modifying operation of a computer managed opening.

Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to page 8 of the present application which provides definitions for the terms "access point," "locking device," and "computer managed opening" as used in the present application. Applicants have utilized these definitions in amending independent claims 1, 21, 34, 36, and 38 to clarify and particularly point out the invention.

Although Huang et al. and Cromer et al. may utilize terms similar to some of the recited claim terms (e.g., web browser, web server, application server, database server, and the like) in their respective disclosures, the mere present of these terms in the references does not make the claimed invention obvious. Applicants believe the amendments made to the claims help to clarify the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references.

Further, Applicants believe the claimed invention also differs from Huang et al. and Cromer et al. as discussed further below.

Huang et al. and Cromer et al. both disclose server centered systems. In a server centered system, both data storage and decision making resides on the server. Without the server, the whole system is rendered useless. For example, in the case of Huang et al., after the server authenticates the connection, the server determines the user ID to provide the corresponding desktop environment for the user. Without the server, a user would be unable to access their virtual desktop. Further, in the case of Cromer et al., the server waits for the client to report statistics, and then decides the parameters to operate. Without the server, operation of the client's computer system network hardware would not be remotely modified.

Alternatively, the computer managed opening of the invention is a client centered system. A client centered system is self-sufficient. That is, instead of being controlled and managed by servers, the computer managed openings of the invention can make decisions and operate without the intervention of servers. The servers merely provide needed service and/or data as requested.

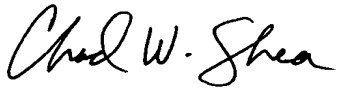
Therefore, the limitations of amended claims 1, 21, 34, 36, and 38 specify limitations that are not taught or suggested by Huang et al. and Cromer et al., either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants submit claims 1, 21, 34, 36, and 38 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-20, 22-33, 35, 37, and 39-49 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 21, 34, 36, and 38, respectively, and consequently include patentable subject matter for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 21, 34, 36, and 38. Therefore claims 2-20, 22-33, 35, 37, and 39-49 are allowable. Additionally, claims 2-20, 22-33, 35, 37, and 39-49 specify additional limitations that, in combination with claim 1, 21, 34, 36, and 38, respectively, are believed to be inventive.

Conclusion

Accordingly, entry of the amendment and allowance of claims 1-49 are respectfully requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad W. Shea
Reg. No. 48,470

File No. 061134-9038-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
3773 Corporate Parkway Suite 360
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
262-956-6560

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